

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 00852 050838Z

10

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 OMB-01 EUR-12 /074 W

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R 050810Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5321

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, KS

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION: U.S. NAVY LOSING CONTROL OF EAST SEA

1. LOCAL PRESS FEB 3-5 HAS PLAYED UP TESTIMONY OF U.S. CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS JAMES HOLLOWAY BEFORE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE. CNO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT WHILE IN THE 1950'S THE U.S. HAD CONTROL OF THE EAST SEA (SEA OF JAPAN), ANY OPERATION THERE NOW WOULD BE AT SUFFERANCE OF SOVIETS.

2. SEVERAL EDITORIALS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER REPORTED SOVIET SUPREMACY IN EAST SEA. HANKUK ILBO SAW DEVELOPMENT AS SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR ROK WHICH IS CONFRONTED ON BOTH LAND AND SEA BY NORTH KOREA. HANKUK EDITORIAL POINTS OUT THAT "VICTORY" IN KOREAN WAR DURE TO CONTROL OF SEA.

3. AS COUNTER TO NAVAL THREAT HANKUK ILBO'S ENGLISH LANGUAGE VERSION, THE KOREA TIMES, CALLED ON ROK TO FIRST IMPROVE ASW CAPABILITIES, THEN TO BUILD SUBMARINE FLEET TO MATCH NORTH KOREA'S SUBMARINE FORCES AND FINALLY

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PAGE 02 SEOUL 00852 050838Z

FOR US AND ROK TO INCREASE SUBMARINE FORCES TO COPE WITH

COMBINED SOVIET UNION, PRC AND NORTH KOREAN FLEETS.

4. CHOSUN ILBO, WHILE POINTING OUT THAT LARGE SOVIET BUILD-UP IS IN PART AIMED AT PRC, USED NEWS OF SOVIET NAVAL BUILD-UP AS OPPORTUNITY TO WARN OF GENERAL DANGEROUS SHIFT IN POWER BALANCE NOW TAKING PLACE BECAUSE OF U.S. POLICY OF "DETENTE". ENGLISH LANGUAGE KOREAN HERALD SIMILARLY USED HOLLOWAY STORY AS VEHICLE TO CRITICIZE DETENTE WHICH HAS LED "TO THE STEADY RETRENCHMENT OF U.S. POLICY AND POWER, A RETRENCHMENT THAT PROVED MORE OFTEN UNILATERAL THAN NOT."
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY BUILDUP, US CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS, SEA OF JAPAN, EAST SEA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SEOUL00852
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760043-1064
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760278/aaaacqyc.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAY 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <27 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS REACTION: U.S. NAVY LOSING CONTROL OF EAST SEA
TAGS: MILI, PFOR, KS, US, UR, KN, JA, (HOLLOWAY, JAMES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006